



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL



MAIN OFFICE
P.O. BOX 6990
AUBURN, CA 95604
PH: (530)889-7800 FAX: (530)889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION
DRAWER 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
PH: (530)581-6300 FAX: (530)581-6377

EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **January 30, 2006 / 3:30 PM**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **January 30, 2006 / 10 AM**
Nature of Call: **\$110,000 Loss So Far In ID Theft**
Location of Call: **Placer and Yuba Counties**
Case Number:
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Placer County detectives have been able to identify ninety victims whose debit card information and pin numbers were obtained at a Linda gas station using a card scanner and video camera. The loss to these victims has been tallied at \$110,000.

Claudiu Hotea and Emanuel Moldoveanu were arrested on January 24 for burglary, conspiracy and possession of forged access cards in relation to the stolen debit card information. Hotea is currently being held on a no bail federal warrant in Sacramento County and Moldoveanu posted \$200,000 bail on January 28.

Investigators have identified seven additional locations, all ARCO AM/PM stations, in Rocklin, Roseville, Redding, Oroville, Yuba City, Willows and Sacramento, where information from additional victims was obtained.

ARCO AM/PM stations are the prime targets for these thieves as they are the only stations that will allow a debit/credit card to be used as a debit card only. This requires the victim to enter their pin number in order to receive their fuel purchase. The transactions where the theft of the information occurred have been at the pay point kiosk located near the fuel pumps at these stations, and not inside with the cashier.

The Placer County Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the U.S. Secret Service is conducting the investigation.